

to avoid the persecutions of which. I expected I should be the object, when I received a message from the Tuileries stating that the King desired to see me. I of course lost no time in proceeding to the Palace, and went straight to M. Hue to inquire of him why I had been sent for. He occupied the apartments in which I passed the three most laborious and anxious years of my life. M. Hue, perceiving that I felt a certain degree of uneasiness at being summoned to the Tuileries at that hour of the night, hastened to inform me that the King wished to appoint me Prefect of the Police. He conducted me to the King's chamber, where his Majesty thus addressed me kindly, but in an impressive manner, "M. de Bourrienne, can we rely upon you? I expect much from your zeal and fidelity." — "Your Majesty," replied I, "shall have no reason to complain of my betraying your confidence." — "Well, I re-establish the Prefecture of the Police, and I appoint you Prefect. Do your best, M. de Bourrienne, in the discharge of your duties; I count upon you."

By a singular coincidence, on the very day (the 13th of March) when I received this appointment Napoleon, who was at Lyons, signed the decree which excluded from the amnesty he had granted thirteen individuals, among whose names mine was inscribed.¹ This decree confirmed me in the presenti-

Talleyrand then at Vienna, on the 14th of February, 1815, "Savary said to me with an air of extraordinary conviction, 'We shall see Bonaparte again, and it will be entirely their (the Bourbons') fault.' I feel that Daru and Mare'f agree with him" (vol. ii. pp. 0, 10). Daru, it should be remarked, was very far from an enthusiastic partisan of Napoleon, and indeed had a personal distrust of him. Jaucourt himself, then in temporary charge of the French Foreign Office, if he did not believe in the return could not have been surprised at the catastrophe of the Bourbons, for he writes on 25th January, 1815 (vol. ii. p. 12), "We are really going on very badly, and we (the Government) must do better if we do not wish to perish utterly;" and after the return he writes on 10th April, 1815 (vol. ii. p. 143), "To express it in one word,— the road led straight to the island of Elba." There can be no doubt that the whole conduct of the Allied sovereigns at this period towards Napoleon, France, and the nations of Europe dealt a blow to the so-called principle of legitimacy at the very time it seemed triumphant in Talleyrand's mouth, which it never recovered from. The number of independent monarchs has rapidly lessened since 1815, and a strange sacrosanctity has become attached to the act of conquest. Napoleon was not far wrong when he said that if he fell the whole system would fall with him.

¹ This was Napoleon's list of proscription: — "The Prince of Benevento (Talleyrand), the Due de Eague (Marmont), the Due d'Alberg, the Abbe' de Montesquieu, the Comte de Jaucourt, the Comte de Beurnonville, Lynch, Vitrolles, Alexis de Noailles, Bourrienne, Bellard, Larochejacquelain, ancl